

Joint Information Center Fire Update

Dawes County Complex * Thayer/Sioux County Complex

Thursday, August 3, 2006 - 9:00 A.M.

Information: Dawes: 308-432-6440, Sioux: 308-668-9424 or 9410
and on the Web at: www.inciweb.org

Work continues on both complexes to rehabilitate firelines and burned areas. Some firefighters and resources are being reassigned to other fires or returning to their home units. On Friday, the Dawes County Complex will transition from the Type 2 Team to a Type 3 Team. The new team will have 100-150 resources that will continue monitoring the fires, dousing hotspots and assisting rehabilitation efforts.

As temperatures increase and winds pick up, residents will continue to see smoke from smoldering trees or stumps in the fire areas. They may also see "dust devils," which look very similar to smoke columns, however, they may just be swirls of ash and dust picked up and carried by winds. These are usually short-term duration events. If you suspect you are seeing a new fire start, call 911 or your local fire department.

Dawes County Complex

Total Acres: 27,954

(Spotted Tail - 17,935, Roberts Tract - 9,934, Deadhorse - 85)

Acres by Jurisdiction: National Forest - 16,938, Other - 11,016

Containment: 90 percent

Location: South and southwest of Chadron, NE

Resources: Total personnel: 312, which includes: 4 20-person crews, 27 engines, 4 dozers, 6 water tenders

Air support available: 2 helicopters

Cost to date: \$2.6 million

Spotted Tail and Roberts Tract Fires: Firefighters will continue looking for and dousing hotspots 100 feet in from the perimeter in grassy areas and 200 feet in from the perimeter in forested areas. Firefighters will continue rehabilitating dozer and hand lines built during the suppression efforts.

Thayer/Sioux County Complex

Total Acres: 37,900 (Thayer - 29,466 and Rudloff - 8,379)

Containment: 85% (Thayer - 80%, Rudloff - 95% and Oldaker - 75%)

Resources: 328, which includes 2 type 1 Crews, 3 Type 2 Crews, 21 engines, 4 dozers, 6 water tenders, 4 helicopters

Cost to Date: \$850,000

Thayer: Personnel will continue securing the perimeter, improving control lines and extinguishing burning or smoldering trees or stumps near the established lines. Rehabilitation will continue on the western side of the fire.

Rudloff: Firefighters continue to secure and strengthen firelines. Rehabilitation of firelines has begun on segments of the fire perimeter.

Public Meeting Tonight in Chadron

Thursday, August 3 at 7 P.M.
Chadron High School

Receive an update on the Dawes County fires, learn about rehabilitation efforts, and learn about financial assistance for private landowners.

Oldaker Ranch Fire

On Wednesday, a new fire started in northwestern Harrison County quickly grew from 150 to 2,336 acres within three hours. Fire managers remind people that, even with Monday's rain, conditions remain very dry. Any new fire start could see rapid growth.